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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

September 12, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

Though having returned so recently, the House prepares to leave for a long weekend. Many of its Members prepare to observe Yom Kippur—the Day of Atonement.

At a time of great international tensions, many others will take pause to acknowledge past failures and renew efforts at peaceful and productive resolutions to ongoing difficulties.

On this day, give the Members of this assembly listening hearts and a willingness to give to each other time and attention. May they be ready to respond to Your Spirit living in each of their colleagues.

And may all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TONKO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

LACK OF LEADERSHIP

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, we're living in a dangerous world abroad, with challenging economic times at home, but America has been here before.

On Tuesday, Americans witnessed the embarrassing and dangerous results of this administration's lack of a coherent foreign policy: Vladimir Putin filled the global leadership void. What happens next with Syria and that region is anyone's guess, but it's clear that America is not in the driver's seat.

The President failed to convince me—and most of the American people—that military action in Syria is in our best interests. This debate was not conducted from a position of foreign policy strength because Syria was allowed to fester. Flawed attempts at coalition building failed.

Iran is ever closer to a nuclear bomb. Iran funds terrorist organizations. Iran's influence in the region is significant. And a Middle Eastern arms race would likely follow, the results of which could be catastrophic.

The world is looking to America for leadership. The American people are looking to this President for leadership. Mr. President, it's time for you to step up to the plate.

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, recent superstorms like Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee have tested the resiliency of our infrastructure. During these severe weather events, bridges failed, blackouts occurred, and communities were devastated by flooding at the same time that our water supply systems failed. It took weeks to restore these vital services. Our electricity, potable

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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water, and transportation networks must be reliable even in the face of severe storms.

The American people need and deserve a Congress that will work together to address the present and growing threat of climate change and do what is necessary to ensure the resiliency of our roads, bridges, electrical grid, dams, and water systems. Accomplishing this would create jobs and support our communities and our economy.

This week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported that Sandy-like flooding is now twice as likely due to the sea level rise associated with climate change. One need look no further to understand that the time is now to act on climate.

UNAFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, all over this country many thousands are not being hired because of the so-called Affordable Care Act, which is really unaffordable. Many thousands more are seeing their hours cut so they do not go over the 30-hour-week threshold. Someone said the new normal is now two 20-hour-a-week jobs.

Now the State of Tennessee has had to notify 16,000 Tennesseans they can no longer have coverage under CoverTN, a low-cost health care plan for small businesses and the self-employed. The plan is being abolished because it does not meet all the bureaucratic requirements of ObamaCare.

Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER said:

The new health care law has destroyed an innovative State health insurance plan that is helping 16,000 Tennesseans afford health care coverage.

When the President was selling ObamaCare to Americans, he said again and again that people who had insurance they liked could keep it. Despite the President's promises, Tennesseans enrolled with CoverTN are among the thousands of Americans who are being forced to buy new, more expensive plans with much higher premiums because of the "Unaffordable Care Act."

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, it's now been 2 years since President Obama stood before a Joint Session of Congress to present a comprehensive and cost-effective plan to address our national jobs crisis.

With all eyes now on Syria, the CR, and the debt limit, we cannot forget that the emergency for tens of millions of Americans is still painful and pervasive joblessness. It's now been 2 years,

and the President's bill, the American Jobs Act, has still not even received a vote in this House.

Madam Speaker, it's time to commit to a serious jobs agenda that stops sequester layoffs and provides real options for the long-term unemployed people in our Nation. It's time to bring the American Jobs Act of 2013 to the floor. Madam Speaker, the mantra of this Congress should be: jobs, jobs, jobs.

"NEW NORMAL" II

(Mr. MEEHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I have returned to Washington after spending time back in our districts with our constituents, and it's clear we've got our work cut out for us.

Already we've been hearing personal stories—and I know I did—of folks in our districts who are having trouble making ends meet in this new normal under the Obama economy.

And last week, we found things were only getting worse with unemployment. This rate has been too high for too long. Millions of our fellow Americans are unemployed, with an average of 8.5 months out of work.

The simple truth is they deserve better.

House Republicans have a solid plan to put Americans back to work and secure our future. To do that, we believe the solution lies in expanding our freedom and opportunity, not restricting it.

KSBW CELEBRATES 60-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in the United States Congress to celebrate and honor our local television station—it started 60 years ago—KSBW, an NBC affiliate for the central coast of California. SBW stands for "Salad Bowl Capital of the World," which is what the Salinas area is known for.

In September 1953, the station opened, and it proudly represented the whole feeling of the central coast to have its first television station. I was 12 years old, and I remember sitting there with my father as he was being interviewed on that television station. It went through decades of being the area's first station to provide local news. It was the first station to broadcast in color. It was the first to broadcast news reports from the field. It was the first to broadcast in high definition.

For the past 15 years, the station has been owned by the 126-year-old Hearst Corporation and led locally by Joseph

W. Heston as president and general manager. Hearst continues to operate a full-time Washington, D.C., news bureau, making KSBW the only local station on the central coast to provide direct reports from Washington to local constituents.

Congratulations, KSBW, for 60 years of firsts. I wish them another 60 years of great success on the central coast.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Suicide Prevention Week.

Suicide is a serious public health problem that takes an alarming toll on so many individuals, including our military personnel and veterans. A growing number of returning servicemembers and veterans suffer from posttraumatic stress, acute brain injuries, severe anxiety, depression, and a variety of other mental illnesses from battle. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs released a study in February 2013 which estimates that approximately 24 veterans commit suicide every day.

Our highest priority must be the mental health and well-being of our friends, our colleagues, and loved ones, and also the brave men and women who serve our Nation. Should one fear that someone they know is in crisis or depressed, giving that person an opportunity to open up and share their troubles with you can go a long way.

National Suicide Prevention Week is a time for all of us to learn more about suicide, its warning signs, and what can be done to help those in need.

PANCREATIC CANCER

(Mr. GARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARCIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to a disease that plagues our Nation and my home State of Florida—that is pancreatic cancer.

Unfortunately, pancreatic cancer today remains the fourth leading cause of cancer death, with a 5-year survival rate of just 6 percent. In 2013, the Pancreatic Cancer Network anticipates that there will be 3,380 new cases of pancreatic cancer in Florida alone.

Last year, Congress passed the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act, which calls on the National Cancer Institute to help develop a scientific framework for combating pancreatic cancer. This was an important step forward, but there is clearly more that we can do and should be done.

We must continue to fund investments in the National Cancer Institute's research so that they can better